

A pericardial cyst case evaluated with real time 3D transoesophageal echocardiography

Torbiel osierdzia w przezprzełykowej echokardiografii 3D w czasie rzeczywistym

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A 56 year-old male presented to our institution with a history of dyspnoea and palpitation. His physical examination revealed diminished heart sounds. ECG demonstrated sinus tachycardia, left axis deviation and reduced QRS amplitude without ischaemic changes. X-ray showed enlargement of the cardiac silhouette at the left margin of the heart (Fig. 1). Transthoracic echocardiography revealed an 11.0 × 8.7 cm cyst-like hypoechogenic and homogeneous structure at the pericardium neighbouring the anterolateral wall of the left ventricle (Fig. 2A). Using real time three-dimensional transoesophageal echocardiography, the cyst was defined as unilocular and its inner surface was smooth (Fig. 2B). The laboratory workup demonstrated negative markers for serology and negative indirect haemagglutination inhibition test. The patient was then prepared for surgery. During exploration, a pericardial cyst located at the anterolateral surface of the left ventricle extending over the right ventricular outflow tract was detected, measuring 11 × 9 × 8 cm; needle aspiration yielded a serous bright liquid material. After drainage of approximately 500 cc liquid, an incision was made to the cyst wall and its inner wall was observed to be smooth (Fig. 3). Pathologic examination of the cyst revealed a fibrous outer layer containing mononuclear inflammatory cells covered by a single layer squamous epithelium at the inner surface.



Figure 1. Chest X-ray showing an enlarged cardiac silhouette



Figure 2. Transthoracic echocardiography (A) and real time three-dimensional transoesophageal echocardiography (B) revealing an 11 × 8.7 × 8.1 cm cyst-like unilocular pericardial structure with smooth inner surface

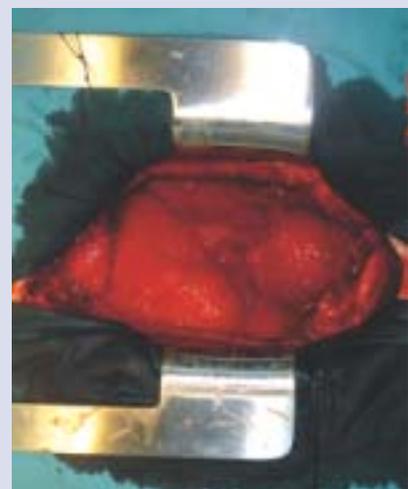


Figure 3. Surgical specimen of the large pericardial cyst

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